

Aino Elizabeth Huntos Maiden name.

FAMILY NAME Russia ruled Finland when Ina lived there. There used to be a Russian Military Hospital in her hometown. Caretaker of the hospital had a dog named 'Hunt.'

People started calling the hospital 'Huntos.' Ina's father last name was Pentela (?) originally. Not enough work or food on their farm. Moved to another farm called Kentola (?) and took that name. His 2 oldest brothers married and split the farm.

Next brother crippled. Became a blacksmith. He married. Ina's father knew Ina's mother but she was too young for marriage.

He didn't have money. Went to St. Petersburg (Leningrad) and helped build St. Isaac's Church there.

Ina was born in 1889 in Kaustinen, Finland. Kaustinen is located inland of the Gulf of Bothnia and southeast of Kokkola (Gamla Karleby) in Vasa Laani.

PARENTS Abram Huntos. His father's name was Pentela (?). Abram was born with the name Kentola (?).

Ina's name was 'Aino' when she lived in Finland. Her name comes from the Finnish epic, Kalevala.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS 4 brothers - Matt Huntos, John Huntos, Charlie (Kalle) Huntos, Andrew Huntos.

CHILDHOOD Father was a carpenter. They lived on a farm. Open fireplace in the house. Father would get up early. Build fire in fireplace. Take care of the cows and horses. Come in house and make coffee. Call his wife to come have coffee with him. Take Ina in his lap.

After done with his coffee, he'd fix Ina's hair.

He did farm work and helped his brother, who was a blacksmith, if he needed help. (See also I-154).

They lived in the old military hospital called 'Huntos' in Kaustinen. It was a big building with many rooms. (See also I - 071, 111,

Ina's uncle, wife, and 2 sons moved in. It was too crowded. Ina's father and mother built a smaller house when only Ina and her youngest brother were left at home.

Ina likes America and is a citizen, but she was never hungry in Finland. She had a good farm and they had plenty. Grew rye and oats.

Her father would never give money to people. If they came and asked, he'd ask them what they need and tell to help themselves. Told them to come and help when they started digging up potatoes.

Ina's mother was a good cook. Made good bread. When Ina's parents gave food to people, they were glad to help out on the Huntos' farm. They got good food when they worked at the Huntos.

Father was active in church. Went every Sunday. Had a good voice. Helped with the singing.

He wanted the kids to have some fun. On fall evenings, after they were done digging the potatoes and harvesting other crops, Ina's mother would fix food. Then the kids would play in the yard. Her father would sit on the porch and watch.

Her father was a very good dancer. Won prizes. Did schottisches, polkas, waltzes. Learned Russian dances when in Russia.

GRANDPARENTS Died before Ina was born. They were farmers. Ina's mother came from a really big home. Russians ruled Finland then. On large farms, Finns had to give 1 or 2 Russian soldiers food and lodging. On Ina's maternal grandparents farm, there were two houses. One was for the Russian soldiers. There was a military training camp for Russians near this farm. (English translation II-990.)

SCHOOL A neighbor boy was the same age as Ina. They shared a private teacher in town. They didn't like her. They were wild ones.

The neighbor boy, Jalver, and Ina were 2nd cousins. Were very good friends. They ate dinner with each other. They'd make the teacher mad by running up to the window and yelling 'company is coming! Here come the horses!' (Translated to English by Donna Mallonee.)

Grade school started. Family of 3 boys and 2 girls moves to the area. Daughter, Alina (?) wanted to go to school. A man came to teach Ina, Jalver, and Alina (?). Her mother, Maja Liisa, helped Alina (?) learn to read. (This was part of the interview is difficult to understand.)

Ina's mother said that Ina always had a book with her when she learned how to read. There weren't any libraries. By the time she was 9 years old.

She had read the Bible. Sometimes when Ina had questions, her father would pat her on the head and tell her she was very young and would understand when she was older. Question about one of the preachers at church who didn't read very well. Ina's father said they'd have to replace him someday.

REASONS FOR COMING TO AMERICA Came when she was 18 to visit 3 of her brothers who were married and lived in Naselle, Washington, which is on the Naselle River. The 4th brother came to visit Ina and ended up staying in America.

TRIP TO AMERICA Came in 1907. Left Finland August 7th. Cousin's wedding just before she left. Lasted for 3 days. Dancing and celebrating.

Lots of flowers. Describes a Finnish dance they did. Married a boy from Astoria, Oregon. His mother was Finnish. His father, from Hammerfest, Norway sailed from Norway, around Cape Horn, and settle in Astoria. He had a store there.

Swedes and Norwegians in logging camps went half-crazy when they heard Finnish. Ina married Leif Erickson, a logger.

Ina describes the dance in the cook house she and Leif went to. Violin and accordion players. Swedish and Norwegian boys couldn't speak Finnish. Leif translated for her.

Couldn't learn much at her brother's place. Told her brothers she was going to find a place to learn something. Went to Portland.

Met 2 Finnish girls who were born in the US. Came with her when she put an ad in the newspaper for work. The boy there, Billy Hayward, said she didn't need to put an ad in the paper to find work. There were many people who wanted Finnish girls who would cook and make bread.

She was visiting a friend. The boy from the newspaper came. First time she saw a car. They ran to the window to watch. Billy said the lady in the car wanted a Finnish girl to work for her.

Met a Finnish boy who worked at a theater which showed silent pictures. He was from Hailuoto, Finland. His name was John Heikkala.

Told her she should go places and do things. She said one should be like a slug. Do things slowly and take it easy.

Went to school with John to learn English.

Had worked for some Germans. Good people. 2 boys and 3 girls. They were learning to read. She started to read too.

John was very honest. Ina made it clear to him that she didn't come to the US to get married. Go back to Finland to get married. They were like sister and brother.

Cousin came with wife. He died. Ina had to find a girl to take her place at work while she was in Astoria, Oregon for the funeral.

Was offered a job in Astoria that paid \$35 a month.. Job in Portland only \$5 a month. Planned to go back to Finland in 4 or 5 months.

Leif Erickson hung around a lot. They ended up getting married. Married almost 3 years before they had children. Ina has only one daughter. Her name is Elna. Married to Leo Malantes.

They lived at a logging camp after they got married.

They moved to Astoria. She had a job washing windows on the tall houses. Worked for a catering service. Did housework and cooking.

Worked at St. Mary's Hospital.

Worked while her daughter was young. Daughter grew up in Astoria.

CHURCH Went to a Lutheran church.

FINNISH ORGANIZATIONS Both she and her husband joined the Finnish Brotherhood. Belonged to an athletic club at one time.

Married Mr. Silverberg when her daughter was 20 years old.

TRIPS TO FINLAND Has gone back 3 times. Would go to stay if she didn't have her daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She has good friends in Finland, but blood is thicker than water.

IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE 'I have been here 72 years and I get these kind of spells, like a sickness, I get so lonesome for Finland.'

FINNISH TRADITIONS Christmas in Finland almost like here, but better.

FINNISH FOODS SHE LIKES Laxlaada, a fish and potato casserole.

CONTACT WITH FAMILY IN FINLAND Some first cousins and many second cousins. Write to each other. They have often sent tapes for her birthday and for Christmas.

Tells about her favorite people in Finland.

Tells about when her father said good-bye to her when she left Finland. 'When my daddy said good-bye to me, he put his hands over my head and said, 'Now my girl goes to the world. I can't give you silver or gold, but take my blessing and keep it. Remember the old folks prayers and it will always help you.' (Translations II-990.)

TRANSLATIONS BY THE INTERVIEWER SEE I-603: Ina was talking about her maternal grandmother. They had to accommodate a certain amount of Russian soldiers on their farm. The grandmother would chase the soldiers with a whip. They'd pretend to be afraid and run away from her. They were just humoring her. SEE II-887: Father saying good-bye to her in Finland. Ina says she has gone through a lot. Her 2nd husband was sick many times and suffered. Had to have a leg amputated. Her youngest brother wrote to her and said he worried about her very much with all the hardships she had. She answered: 'Brother, don't worry about me. I have the Lord's blessing and it's helped me a lot. And it is true. I have read and talked to many religious people. Everybody has to find their own God. Some think it's imitation (referring to the blessing her father gave her) but in the Bible it says everything will help if you believe in it. I have my father's blessing. Prayer helps an old person if it is believed. If it is real to you then it is the real thing.'